



February 26, 2021

Dear Senators and Representatives:

As a strong advocate for combating climate change, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland wishes to convey its support for Senate Joint Memorial 5. Climate change is one of the greatest threats we face. A 2019 United Nations report warns of a looming ecological disaster that will endanger not only countless species, but ultimately humanity itself. Now more than ever, there is an urgency to renew and strengthen our state's commitment to address this crisis. In the past five years, the climate crisis has substantially worsened. According to the U.S. Department of the Interior, climate trends have moved substantially in the wrong direction:

- Temperatures are rising worldwide due to greenhouse gases trapping more heat in the atmosphere, which is in turn heating the oceans and impacting climate everywhere.
- Higher ocean temperatures have produced more severe storms and floods, while higher temperatures overall have resulted in more severe droughts, wildfires and water shortages due to shrinking snowpack.
- Glaciers are melting at a faster rate along with sea ice in the Arctic and Antarctic, raising sea levels and threatening coastal communities and estuarine ecosystems.
- Higher northern temperatures have begun melting the permafrost,

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